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Where does the use of "why" as an interjection come from?

"why" can be compared to an old Latin form *qui*, an ablative form, meaning *how*. Today "why" is used as a question word to ask the reason or purpose of something. This use might be explained from a formula such as "How does it come that ...". If you meet an old friend of yours, whom you never expected to meet in town, you can express your surprise by saying: Why, it's Jim! This why in the ...

"Why it is" vs "Why is it" - English Language & Usage Stack Exchange

8 1) Please tell me why is it like that. [grammatically incorrect unless the punctuation is changed. Please tell me: Why is it like that? The question: "Why is [etc.]" is a question form in English: Why is the sky blue? Why is it that children require so much attention? Why is it [or some thing] like that?

Contextual difference between "That is why" vs "Which is why"?

Thus we say: You never know, which is why... but You never know. That is why... And goes on to explain: There is a subtle but important difference between the use of *that* and *which* in a sentence, and it has to do primarily with relevance. Grammarians often use the terms "restrictive" and "non-restrictive" when it comes to relative clauses.

Difference between how and why - English Language & Usage Stack Exchange

The questions *How?* and *Why?* only have similar answers where the reason for something is the cause. This is the case for a question like "Why is the boy so big?" — he has eaten a lot, or he has a growth hormone disorder, etc. For a question pair like *Why did you go to the stadium?* *How did you go to the stadium?* the answers are quite obviously different.

What is the purpose of using the word "why" in "why, thank you"?

Why is used here as an interjection. According to Merriam-Webster: —used to express mild surprise, hesitation, approval, disapproval, or impatience

"The reason why" versus "The reason for why": Is that "for"

there ...

The grass is wet because it rained last night. This seems the simplest and most elegant expression of the meaning. I am always suspicious of "reason (s)" and "why" being next to each other. There can be reasons for things but there is usually a better way of expressing "reasons why".

Can "why" be a conjunction? - English Language & Usage Stack Exchange

Why is a just a rather odd wh -word. Its distribution is very limited -- it can only have the word reason as its antecedent, and since it's never the subject it's always deletable. Consequently it behaves strangely, as you and others point out.

What part of speech is "why" in the following example?

In the sentence "Why is this here?", is "why" an adverb? What part of speech is "why?" I think it modifies the verb "is", so I think it is an adverb.

"How come" vs "Why?" - English Language & Usage Stack Exchange

Maybe I could say the question with why is a blunt question, whereas the question with how come indicates we admire that the person spoken to has such great knowledge about computers and that we are interested in hearing more about it, we would like to hear the whole story.

Why does English spelling use silent letters?

Why have a letter in a word when it's silent in pronunciation, like the b in debt? Can anyone please clarify my uncertainty here?